

TELLOFAX 16

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Reconnaissance School for Non-Commissioned
Officers in Sumperk

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DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The Reconnaissance School for Non-Commissioned Officers (Podtustojnicka skola pruzkumna) in Sumperk (P50/N69) conducts a seven-month course to train units for penetration of enemy lines, reconnaissance, guerrilla warfare and sabotage. On completion of the course the men return to their original outfits to instruct special reconnaissance platoons (usually two platoons of the headquarters company) in the infantry units. During 1949 the only requirements for selection to the school were superior intelligence and physical fitness. No requirement as to political reliability from the Communist viewpoint was made. On an average, two men were chosen from each infantry company in the Czech army. A majority of the men attending the school were graduates of a secondary school. Prior to 1949 these men would have been sent to a reserve officers' school. However, since that time, only those with the best school grades have been sent to reserve officers' schools; the remainder have gone to non-commissioned officers' schools of one sort or another.
2. After six weeks of infantry training the men are trained for about four months in guerrilla tactics, reconnaissance, sniping, sabotage, and the spreading of demoralizing propaganda among enemy troops. These tactics are carried on by groups of squad strength. During a final six-week training period, similar maneuvers are carried on by units of company strength in the region around Sumperk, often in cooperation with other units. In addition to the above-mentioned training, the men are given rigorous physical exercise and practice in the use of all types of light weapons, bazookas, flame throwers, knives, strangling wire and jiu-jitsu. Firing, except with the bazookas, is done with live ammunition. Weapons used at the school include Mauser 98K and CZ 24 rifles, Czech, Soviet, German and Italian model sub-machine guns, Czech model 25 light machine guns, Czech model 37 heavy machine guns, pistols, hand grenades, German bazookas and flame throwers. The strength of the companies diminished sharply during 1950 as a result of the elimination of those not physically fit for the strenuous training and those not politically reliable. Thus, the strength of Company K fell from 162 to 130 men, that of Company I from 120 to about 85, and that of Company X from 230 to 180 men.

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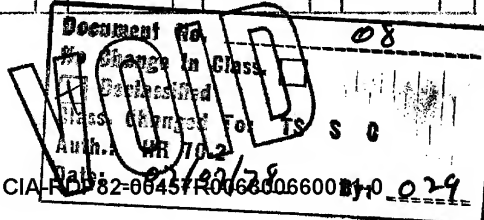
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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3. Officers of the school include the following:

- a. Commanding Officer: Staff Captain Miroslav Danek, about 40 years old, 165 cm tall, slight, with black hair, a Communist. He teaches military tactics.
- b. Deputy Commanding Officer: Staff Captain Sklenar, about 35 years old, 175 cm tall, with blond hair, glasses, an idealistic Communist. He is also an officer of the counter-intelligence service (OZ) and teaches intelligence at the school.
- c. CO of Company K (infantry reconnaissance company) Captain Kirak, a Slovak and a former Slovak partisan; a Communist. He teaches army organization.
- d. Deputy CO of Company K: Janout, a Czech, about 175 cm tall, slim, with auburn hair. He was graduated from the Military Academy in 1948, and is a candidate for membership in the Communist Party. He teaches cartography.
- e. Platoon commanders of Company K: Platoon 1 CO is Lt. Janout.
Platoon 2 CO is Lt. Zajic.
Platoon 3 CO is Sergeant Antos.
Platoon 4 CO is Sergeant Blaha.
- f. CO of Company P (motorized reconnaissance company): Lt. Petr Pevsik, a Slovak, about 32 years old, slight, with black hair; popular, a moderate Communist.
- g. Deputy CO of Company P: A cadet sergeant.
- h. CO of Company X: Staff Captain Arnost Prochazka, about 40 years old, about 180 cm tall, with black hair; a Communist.
- i. Deputy CO of Company X: Lt. Josef Jurcik, a Slovak, about 24 years old, about 165 cm tall, with black hair, an active Communist.
- j. Education Officer of the School: Staff Captain Karasek, an ardent Communist.

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